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Email submitted from: lylemccandless@aol.com at </bicy/parkmgmt/orv-advisory-committee.htm>

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I e-mailed a letter on behalf of the Big Cypress Sportsmens Alliance to your committee back in September of 2008 and hand delivered another copy to all board members at the last ORV advisory committee meeting at NPS headquarters. This letter stated that all the trails requested by the public should be forwarded to the NPS by your committee unless your committee had site specific reasons for eliminating any trail. We hereby request a written site specific justification from the committee for the elimination of any and all trails requested by the public. The great majority of the trails requested by the public were eliminated by a stroke of your pen. The public deserves more consideration than that. I reminded Mr. Ramos in a phone conversation in September of 2008 that considering the minimul 140 +or- miles of primary ORV trails allowed in the Turner River unit the only way we could have reasonable ORV access was to take full advantage of the secondary trail system. The secondary trail system is not limited in total milage or number of individual secondary trails and it was determined after much conversation between ourselves and the NPS that secondary trails could extend up to one and one half miles. If this formula had been properly followed the vast majority if not all of the trails request by the public could have and should have been accominated.

Not only did this not happen but the NPS charged you committee members with defining secondary trails at this late date. You committee members should have had a clear understanding of the defination of a Primary and a Secondary trail up front rather at the end of the program.

The public as well as the FWC should be directly involved in the ground proofing of any and all trails. In the proccess of reopening the Bear Island trails in 2007 our Alliance spent many days using our buggies in relocating the old ORV trails. The NPS didn't have clue as to the location of the old trails. The Big Cypress Sportsmen's Alliance stands ready to help in any way we can. We thank all of you committee members for your dedicated effort.

Lyle McCandless

Pres. BCSA

of the old trails.